

英语快速阅读

SKETCH READING

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西南师范大学出版社



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(修订版)

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英语阅读与快速阅读技巧

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阅读理解是综合运用词汇、句法、修辞、语义等语言知识以及社会、文化背景等百科知识而获取信息、了解客观世界的主要手段；是提高文化素质、加强自身修养、积累知识与经验的基本方法。提高阅读速度则是 English as a Foreign Language (EFL) 阅读课教学的主要的训练项目之一。因此，对于广大的 EFL 教学工作者来讲，一个重要的任务就是要让学员对 EFL 阅读理解有一个全面正确的了解，帮助他们弄清阅读理解及阅读速度的基本概念，阅读理解的常用题型结构、测试方式，才能在教学中有针对性地进行培养阅读技巧、技法，取得事半功倍的效果。

一、阅读理解速度要求

总的来讲，阅读速度因受阅读材料难度、题材等因素的影响而难以简单地界定为每分钟多少字词或多少个印刷符号。《高等学校英语专业基础阶段英语教学大纲》规定阅读材料的难度为“英语国家出版的中等难度的各种材料和文章……以及难度相当于 *The Moon Is Down* 的文学原著和 *Reader's Digest* 等报刊、杂志以及少年百科全书中各种文章”。《高等学校英语专业高年级英语教学大纲》规定大学英语专业四年级学生“能读懂一般英美报刊杂志上的社论，政治和书评……；能读懂一般历史传记及文学作品……；能分析上述题材的文章的思想观点，通篇布局，语言技巧及修辞手法”。在此前提下，两个《大纲》及国家教委组织实施的英语专业水平测试（四、八级）均对英语阅读理解的速度提出了相应的要求。下面是目前英语专业水平测试（四、八级）阅读理解部分对速度要求的一览表：

	字数 (WORD)	时间 (MIN.)	答题时间 (MIN.)	要求速度 (WPM)
英语专业水平测试 (四级)	阅读： 1500	阅读： 25	阅读： 5	阅读： 80
	快读： 800	快读： 5	快读： 2	快读： 250
英语专业水平测试 (八级)	阅读： 2500	阅读： 30	阅读： 10	阅读： 120
	快读： 3000	快读： 10	快读： 2	快读： 350

以高等学校英语专业水平测试（四级）为例，以往各届考试中，阅读理解 (Reading Comprehension) 部分共五段，包括问题在内共 1500 字；要求在 25 分钟内完成。其中 8-10 分钟一般用于答题，15-17 分钟用于阅读。也就是说，要求的阅读速度约为 80-100 字/分钟。快速阅读 (Skimming and Scanning) 部分包括问题在内共约 1000 字，要求在 5 分钟内完成。除去答题时间，要求速度约为 220-250 字/分钟。而根据九五年十二月全国高等学校专业教学指导委员会《关于 TEM 考试部分项目题量变动的通知》，从一九九六

年起，四、八考试中阅读理解部分均将由原来的 20 题减至 15 题而考试时间不变。也就是说，该部分所要求的速度比以往还有所降低。

根据对国家教委组织的英语专业水平测试（四级）统考成绩通知单所提供的数据及对部分学生在基础阶段的阅读测试成绩分析来看，我国近半数英语专业二年级学生的英语阅读测试成绩以达及格以上。对他们来说，达到《大纲》规定的阅读速度并非高不可攀。迄今为止，国内已有不少专家对中国 EFL 学生的阅读能力进行了研究，所得到的结论大多认为，中国 EFL 学生在英语阅读理解方面大有潜力可挖。例如，上海交通大学杨惠中教授指出：“……对于把英语作为外语的学生来说，经过训练把阅读速度提高到 200 WPM 以上也是有可能的。”一些多年从事英语教育的人士也认为，经过一个学期有系统的训练，英语专业二年级多数学生阅读一般难度的文章可以在保持理解率 70+% 的前提下达到阅读理解 140-170 字/分钟；快速阅读可达 240-260 字/分钟；专业四年级上期多数学生可以在保持理解率 70-80% 的前提下阅读理解达到 160-220 字/分钟；快速阅读可达 300-350 字/分钟；较好的甚至可以达到一般美国大学生的阅读理解速度，即每分钟 250 字以上。

由此可见，对于 EFL 学生来说，提高阅读能力并不是一件只能望洋兴叹的事，应该树立起坚强的信心。

二、阅读测试题型特点及应试技巧

目前，各种英语水平测试中阅读理解部分的测试要求虽各有侧重，但概括起来不外以下几方面的内容：（1）文章的主旨和目的；（2）文章的观点；（3）文章的言外之意；（4）作者的语气与态度和表现手法；（5）文章提到的具体情况及细节，如例证、时间、地点、号码、人或物的具体名称等。与之相适应，大多数测试将阅读测试分为两个部分：阅读理解（Reading Comprehension）和快速阅读（Speeding Reading）；阅读理解部分主要测试应试者通过阅读获取信息的能力，既要求准确，也要求有一定的速度。因此答题时应侧重于理解，在理解的基础上争取速度。而快速阅读部分则要求应试者在限定时间内完成一定的阅读量，并获取信息，既要求速度也应力求准确。关键在于速度。这两部分的问题均为“多项选择”。

阅读理解

阅读理解（即通常所指的 Reading Comprehension）指通读全文并（1）理解文章的内容，了解作者观点和意图；（2）了解说明主旨和大意的事实和细节；（3）既理解字面意思也能根据所读材料进行一定的判断和推论；（4）既理解个别句子的意义也理解上下文的逻辑关系。由此这部分有如下几种常见的出题类型：

1、问文章主题、大意、目的或整篇文章的中心思想或标题等，如：

What is the main idea (topic) of the passage?

The principal idea of the article concerns ____.

What is the main point of the passage?

Which of the following would be a suitable title for the passage?

2、问作者写作目的及对文章主题的态度、立场等，如：

The author's attitude towards the man is ____.

Which of the following statements best describes the author's view?

The author's tone in this passage is ____.

以上两类问题和略读基本相同，在答题时可如法炮制。但因为这一部分的选材和语言都比略读部分难，在答题时所要求的语言水平和综合分析能力更高。

3、问有关文章主旨和大意的事实和细节，如：

Which of the following is not true of the passage?

Which of the following statements is true of the last paragraph?

The old man got angry because ____.

这一类问题与跳读部分的问题方式似乎相仿，实则不同。虽然和跳读问题一样，这一类问题都涉及文章细节，但这些问题的答案决不是可以“找”到的；而必须以这些细节和事实进行深层的理解、消化才能获得答案。不过我们可以采用跳读的方法，迅速找到问题所涉及的细节或事实，然后采用正常阅读速度理解、判断并选出正确答案。

4、判断和推论问题。这类问题要求应试者通过字里行间的阅读，作合乎逻辑的推理或连接文中的有关证据来建立正确的定论。换言之，推断就是诠释文中的直接陈述、暗示、线索及其它一些信息，而这种诠释必须基于准确理解文章的具体内容并作合理的综合判断和归纳推理。其具体问题方式有：

It can be inferred from the passage that ____.

We can conclude from the passage that ____.

This passage would most likely be found in a book on ____.

5、问谋篇布局、语言技巧及写作手法，如：

Following this selection, the author will most likely talk about ____.

In the part that precedes this selection, the author probably discussed ____.

The author quoted Carl Marx to ____.

正确回答有关谋篇布局的问题的关键在于抓住文章的中心论点 (Controlling Idea) 和各段间的转折句和转折连词 (Transition)。因为文章的中心论点决定了整个文章的脉络，而转折句和转折连词体现了这一脉络下各部分之间的关系。只要理顺了脉络、理清了关系，谋篇布局、写作手法就自然了然。而至于与某一具体语言点有关的技巧和手法等问题，可参考下面“根据上下文推测词义”的部分原则。

6、根据上下文推测词义，如：

As used in the passage, the word **point** means ____.

The word **dilapidated** in line 6 probably means ____.

对于根据上下文推测词义的方法和技巧，重庆交通学院周开鑫教授 (1995) 曾作过深入的论述；将其概括起来大致有以下原则和方法：

- A. 首先应利用略读方法，迅速、准确地找到所问单词或短语在文中的位置；
- B. 确定生词是否按某构词法构成；
- C. 弄清包含生词的句子的意思；
- D. 理解包含生词的句子所处上下文的意思；

而在具体操作时，应侧重从以下几个方面入手：

- A. 注意定义和解释。如果用到一些较偏较难的词语时，一般作者都会以某种方式 (如

插入同位语、定语从句、括弧说明等)加以定义、解释或说明。

B. 利用同义词、近义词或反义词提示。所谓同义词和近义词提示即生词与前后某一熟词的意思相同或相近,这样的两个或两组词往往出现在突出某一相似之处的比较之中。反义词提示即生词与前后某一熟词的意思相反,两者间常有表示意思转折的信息词,如“but, however, in contrast to”等;前后两部分往往形成一种对照。

C. 利用概念的种属关系推测生词的大体含义;这一方法适合于对名词意思的猜测。

D. 借助已有的知识或生活常识;有些生词的前后没有提示,也无法通过种属关系来推断其意思,但如果利用已有的知识或生活常识,稍作分析,其含义不难判断。

总之,了解这些问题方式对寻找正确答案很有帮助。一般的人在回答阅读理解部分问题时采用 Normal Speed。但是如果在阅读之前能先看问题,对问题的类型、要求进行分析判断,就可以根据不同的目的、要求采用不同的阅读方法快速找到答案。在很多情况下,我们可以采用略读的方法。例如,在回答有关文章中心意思、文章主题、作者立场观点、写作目的等类问题时,可以采取略读中的第二、第三种方法,即重点阅读文章开头和结尾段落和主要抓每段的主题句和结论句;在回答与文章大意有关的细节类问题时,我们甚至可以采用查阅的方法。这样一来,我们就可以把阅读理解的速度提高到近似于略读或跳读的速度。

快速阅读

快速阅读通常又分为略读或浏览 (Skimming) 和跳读或查阅 (Scanning) 两类。在考试中,回答快速阅读问题先看问题后阅读这一点十分重要。所以在目前的英语专业水平测试(四、八级)中,快速阅读的问题通常放在各段的前面。

由于考试中略读和跳读被同时放在一个部分,部分学员往往把这两种不同的阅读方式混为一谈。其实无论是在阅读段落的选材、语言的难度还是考试的侧重点和问题的角度方面,它们都有着本质的区别;因此,它们各自的阅读和答题方式都有着根本的不同。

略读

略读是指快速浏览所读材料,找出中心意思或了解大致内容。略读部分的文章的题材大多为日常生活、社会、文化等;语言难度介于浅近和中等之间。问题一般都只涉及文章的主题或大意、写作目的、作者的身分、态度或立场、文章的语气等,如:

The author's intention seems to be ____.

The general tone of the passage is ____.

One would get the impression that ____.

The passage is mainly about ____.

既然略读的目的在于找出文章中心意思和了解大致内容,我们就不必逐一阅读文章的细节内容;在训练时应注意运用以下技巧:

1、通过文章的印刷细节(如文章的题目、大小写、斜体字、黑体字、标点符号、排版方式等)推测文章的主要内容、写作目的、作者思路等。

2、重点阅读文章开头和结尾段落,抓住文章大意、议题、作者的立场、语气等。

3、阅读每个段落时,主要抓住该段的主题句(topic sentence)和结论句(conclusion)。因为理解了主题句和结论句即找到了一段的中心意思和论题。然后注意包

含转折词和序列词的句子。至于各段的细节可略去不读，这样可以大大提高阅读速度。

跳读或查阅

跳读指阅读过程中，跳过不相干的内容，找出某个特定的信息。此类问题通常涉及诸如开车时间、到会人数、人名、地点、日期、价格、天气消息、电话号码等等。这一部分的选材除日常生活外，还包括广告、时刻表、价目表、天气预报、说明书、合同书、号码簿、菜谱、卡片、词条、人物生平、银行存折、各种示意图表等。虽然这一部分的语言难度比略读部分高，但答题难度却不如略读部分大，因而用在这一部分的时间也应该相应短一些；因为跳读问题无一例外地都只涉及具体的细节信息；这些问题的答案都是所读材料中现存的信息，且比较明显，多数问题无需计算或深层理解即能得出答案，如：

- How many tablets a day should a child of four take?
A. One. B. Two. C. Half a tablet. D. None.
- Which Country has the highest number of illiterate people?
A. Burkina Faso. B. Morocco. C. Kenya. D. Tanzania.
- If a secondary school graduate wishes to seek advice on his job prospects, which of the following telephone numbers should he call?
A. 0734 234809 B. 0734 234011 C. 0734 233625 D. 0734 418222

从以上这些问题和所给选项中不难看出，与略读不同，跳读是在读者对材料有所了解的情况下，有目的地找出某个特定的细节信息。其关键在一个“找”字。也就是说，跳读或查阅时根本用不着“读”；我们的目光在纸上的移动方式不再是逐行地横向平行移动，而是一目数行地纵向移动。具体地说，查阅可遵循以下原则：

1、首先要弄清资料的编排形式。多数资料是按字母顺序排列的，如词典、索引、电话号码簿等。当然，并不是所有资料都以字母顺序排列，如电视节目、历史史料、时刻表等大都以日期、时间或年代编排。弄清资料的编排方式，可以帮助我们准确、迅速地找到所需信息的位置，从而节约查阅时间。

2、采用快速略读方式，利用章节标题、说明以及印刷特点等信息，确定选文中哪一部分包含哪些材料，从而快速判断自己所需信息在什么地方。

3、在利用以上两种方法查找出回答问题所需信息的位置后，要留心与所要查寻的具体信息有关的提示词。找到提示词，然后采用一般阅读速度，找出问题的答案。

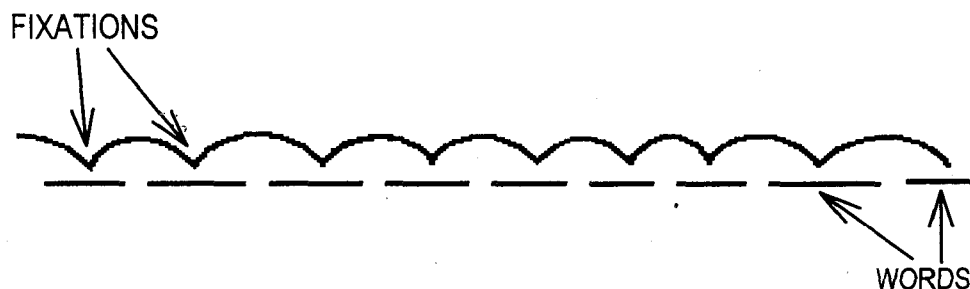
三、培养良好的阅读体态习惯

影响阅读速度的一个重要原因是不良的阅读体态习惯。美国 Edward Fry 博士在 *Reading Faster* 一书中归纳出了以下一些阅读时不良的体态习惯：1) 不必要的身体移动 (extra body movement)，包括：头部 (或眼睛) 晃动 (turning the head from side to side)、嘴唇蠕动 (moving the lips or murmur) 以及用手指或铅笔引读 (finger pointing)；2) 默读 (subvocalization)。

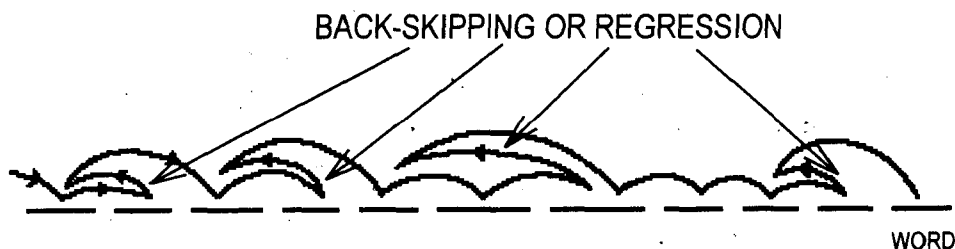
1、眼睛的移动 (Eye Movement)

Edward Fry 博士认为，在各种不良阅读习惯中，因头部晃动而导致眼光左右来回移

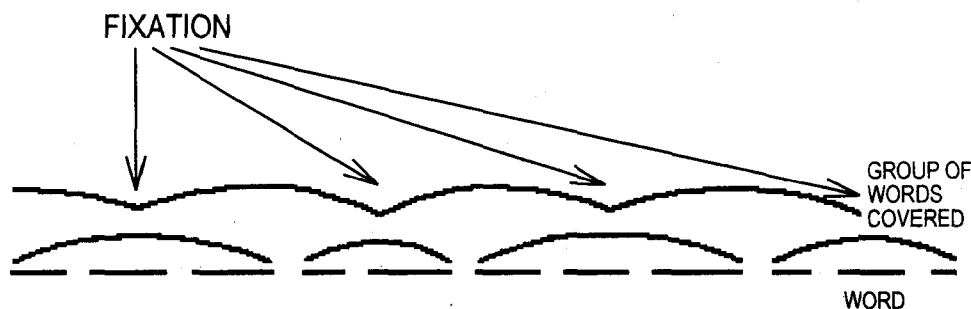
动对阅读速度的影响最大。平常很多人认为，阅读时，目光在纸上是按一种平滑、连续的方式移动的。而事实上，眼睛视物的过程是由一个个有规律的“跳跃”（small and regular jerks）组成的；只有在两个“跳跃”之间的“停顿”瞬间才能定位看清物体。这一过程可以用一个图来表示：



从图中可以清楚地看出，阅读过程中目光在纸上不断地“跳跃”，“停顿”，“跳跃”，“停顿”；只有在每次“停顿”时才汲入信息。在整个阅读过程中，这些“停顿”占去绝大部分时间——每次“停顿”持续四分之一秒到一秒半。因而，要提高阅读速度就必须缩短每次“停顿”的时间或减少“停顿”次数。阅读时如果头部晃动、目光有意识或无意识地回移，就会如下图所示在同样的内容上增加“定位”次数：



只要进行一个简单的算术运算就会看出这样的阅读速度肯定很不理想。Edward Fry 博士认为阅读时目光移动的最佳方式应当是这样：



一个好的读者，不仅应当避免目光有意、无意地回移，同时还应当尽量拉长每次“跳跃”的步长；也即是说，在每次“定位”时，不是只汲入一个词，而是两个、三个甚至更多。如果能够做到这一点，我们的阅读速度就可以成倍地提高。

2、嘴唇蠕动或低声朗读 (Subvocalization)

很多 EFL 学生在阅读英语文章时会无意识地读出声音, 有的虽不读出声音但嘴唇会不自主地随着读过的单词蠕动, 还有少数人虽然可以控制住不发出声音, 也可以不蠕动嘴唇, 但喉头却忍不住会随着读过的单词活动。这些都是不好的阅读习惯。阅读与交谈不同。交谈是借助于声音符号来表达意思, 而阅读却是一个理解视觉符号的过程。声音只能一次发一个, 而阅读时, 如前所述, 眼睛却可以一次汲入两个、三个甚至多个符号。一般说来, 有声地阅读, 无论多熟的文章, 顶多可达 150-180 字每分钟, 而一般 EFL 学生有声阅读只能达 80-100 字每分钟。这样就极大地阻碍了阅读速度的提高。很多阅读速度方面的专家提出了各种各样的纠正方法, 例如, 美国的 Tony Buzan (1993) 建议有阅读时蠕动嘴唇习惯的人在阅读时有意识地让舌头在口腔内有规律地上下摆动, 这样就可以迫使自己不去发音或蠕动嘴唇。笔者认为这一方法不可取。虽然这样可以在阅读时不发出声音, 但舌头摆动本身对于阅读来说就是一种不良的身体运动, 它势必会分散注意力, 从而影响阅读速度。还有人提出了阅读时咬紧牙关或含铅笔等方法。这些方法虽然都值得一试, 不过终究还只是些外在的因素。要想从根本上解决这一问题, 还得从培养自觉意识入手。只要每次发现有出声或嘴唇蠕动时, 自觉提醒自己停止; 长久训练自然会养成良好习惯。

3、手指导读和默读 (Finger Pointing)

大多数专家之所以反对这两种习惯, 是因为他们认为手指在纸上移动的速度以及默读的速度都跟不上目光移动速度, 从而会影响阅读速度。其实这两种习惯并不是什么坏习惯。虽然我们不提倡这两种阅读习惯, 但有这些习惯的同学也不必为之过分烦恼。只要利用得当它们甚至可以帮助提高阅读速度。比如, 一些阅读培训中心使用的助读仪即是利用手指导读的原理。这种助读仪实际上是一种卡尺式的自动定位器。它通过卡尺在纸上按一定速度匀速运动以帮助目光定位, 并按要求的速度进行阅读。所以, 我们可以利用手指或笔头来帮助目光定位。如果你觉得手指或笔头跟不上阅读速度, 加强手指移动速度的训练即可。而默读更是大部分人都有的一种自然习惯; 而且心理学和脑学专家研究结果表明, 我们的大脑“读”字的速度可达 1000 字/每分钟以上。所以等你的阅读速度提高到了 1000 字/分钟再担心也不为迟。

四、结束语

阅读速度的快慢以及阅读理解能力的强弱取决于多方面的因素。这种能力的培养是一个渐进的积累过程, 需要长期的不懈努力。再加上各种英语阅读理解测试中, 文章的题材涉及各个学科, 所以要获得理想的成绩的确不大容易。但只要我们树立信心、养成良好的阅读习惯并在平常的训练中认真分析各种阅读理解测试的问题方式及倾向, 有针对性地培养一此答题技巧, 就能够《大纲》规定的标准, 取得满意的结果。

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Unit 1

Read the question(s) before skimming or scanning the passage and mark your answers by drawing with a pencil a short bar across the corresponding letter in the brackets.

1. The passage gives the impression that the Scottish Highlands are ____.
- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| [A] excitingly prosperous | [B] populous |
| [C] attractive | [D] often covered with a thick fog |

Northern Scotland is a land of beauty. Mountain ranges covered with trees, evergreen shrubs, and purple heather give the region a beauty that is known throughout the world. The beautiful lakes, or lochs as they are called by the Highland people, lie among the rugged mountains. They add to the spectacular scenery of the area.

But despite the beauty, the Scottish Highlands are strange and lonely. Empty farmhouses dot the area. Crumbling medieval castles stand in silent tribute to a romantic past. Often the mountains are covered with a cold mist. In the early morning, a thick fog sometimes blankets the area, seeming to settle on the many beautiful lakes.

2. A person who is afraid of water is most likely to have ____.
- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| [A] mysophobia | [B] xenophobia |
| [C] hydrophobia | [D] claustrophobia |
3. A good way to overcome one's irrational fear of something would be ____.
- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| [A] trying to avoid it | [B] reading the Bible in time of need |
| [C] getting rid of the anxiety attack | [D] trying to get used to it |

Do you have a *phobia*? No, it is not an infectious disease like measles, but it can make you quite as miserable. A phobia is an irrational, persistent fear of some particular thing or situation.

Did you know that some people fear heights? That is called *acrophobia*. Many people experience *claustrophobia* when they are in a closed space such as a small room or an elevator. *Zoophobia* is a fear of animals. An unreasonable fear of dirt is called *mysophobia* and an unreasonable fear of germs, *bacteriaphobia*. There are names for fear of thunder, lightning, wide open spaces, people, crowds, darkness, water, and many other things.

A phobia expert tells us that in the presence of a phobic situation a person has what is called an 'anxiety attack'. Blood rushes to his larger muscles in preparation for flight or fight.

One expert on phobias suggests we race our fears gradually. A person who is afraid of people could overcome this fear by getting accustomed to them one at a time. Someone who is afraid of water could take swimming lessons in the relative safety of a pool with a lifeguard at hand. A person afraid of heights could practice looking down from medium heights at first until he could handle the greater ones.

4. The passage is mainly about ____.
- [A] the story of the crow
 - [B] an English phrase associated with the crow
 - [C] man's story of eating crow
 - [D] the nice-looking but unpleasant dish of crow
5. Those who are said to be "eating crow" ____.
- [A] must have done something pleasant
 - [B] must have unwisely crowed about themselves
 - [C] are likely to enjoy its flesh
 - [D] must have ever been damned

The crow has been part of man's history. More than any other bird, the crow has been both denounced and praised. Some have feared it as a messenger of evil. To the farmer, the crow is a hungry robber who swoops down to eat his corn shoots. Most people see the crow as a big, noisy, troublesome bird.

It is easy, therefore, to understand how the crow got its name into the language. Any person who talks loudly about himself or his deeds is said to 'crow' about himself. This meaning of the word came from Old English or French, but there is a saying about the crow in America that is different. A person may be too sure of himself and say something in a loud and boastful way. Later, he may admit he is wrong. Then he is 'eating crow'.

No one knows how this saying got started, but one story about it appeared in a Louisiana newspaper in 1851:

A man who owned a boarding house served poor food, and his customers complained about it. One day, they complained so loudly that the owner of the house laughed at them and said, 'Why, I can eat anything and enjoy it.'

Some customers decided to test him. They killed a large crow and cooked it and made it look nice. Secretly, however, they added hot pepper, snuff and salt. They put the tasty-looking dish before the owner and invited him to eat.

The owner took a big bite out of the crow. It was horrible. He pushed the dish away from him. 'Yes,' he said, 'I can eat crow, but I'll be damned if I like it.'

So, being too certain has its price, if later you must admit you are wrong. You may have to swallow your pride as well as your words. And that may be as unpleasant as eating crow.

So, being too certain has its price, if later you must admit you are wrong. You may have to swallow your pride as well as your words. And that may be as unpleasant as eating crow.

6. One may infer from the cartoon that ____.
- [A] the bearded man is very religious
 - [B] the bearded man is very afraid of the woman
 - ☒ [C] the bearded man enjoys recalling his sins
 - [D] the bearded man has just done something terribly wrong



7. If you want to read about the American Indian cultures, you can go to page ____ of the book.
- [A] 13
 - [B] 25
 - [C] 112
 - [D] 205
8. If you want to know the development of American cities, you can go to page ____ of the book.
- ☒ [A] 13
 - [B] 43
 - [C] 81
 - [D] 261

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9. If you are interested in a modern Adventure of not more than two hours long, you will probably choose to watch ____.
- [A] Flight of The Phoenix at 8:00 [B] Psycho at 9:00
 [C] Code of Silence at 9:00 [D] September Storm at 11:00
10. Oliver Reed played a role in ____.
- [A] The Chosen [B] Body Heat
 [C] Fanny Hill [D] The Barbarian And the Geisha

Movies

Evening	8:05 (11) ★ ★ ★ 1/2	11:00 (24) ★ ★ "September Storm"
	"Psycho" (1960, Suspense) Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh. A young woman encounters a psychotic killer. (2 hrs., 25 min.)	(1986, Adventure) Joanne Dru, Mark Stevens. An international group attempts to recover a large Spanish treasure from a sunken ship. (2 hrs., 10 min.)
8:00 (6) (38) ★ ★ "Invitation To Hell" (1984, Drama) Robert Urich, Susan Lucci. A devilish woman serves as the director of a country club where she seduces men physically and women materially. (2 hrs.)	9:00 (7) ★ ★ "Code of Silence" (1984, Adventure) Chuck Norris, Henry Silva. A maverick Chicago cop wages a solitary war against rival drug-running gangs. 'R' (1 hr., 41 min.)	(20) ★ ★ ★ "Darby O'Gill And The Little People" (1959, Fantasy) Albert Sharpe, Sean Conery. An old Irish caretaker captures the king of the leprechauns and forces him to grant three wishes. 'G' (2 hr., 35 min.)
(9) ★ ★ 1/2 "The chosen" (1981, Drama) Maximilian Schell, Rod Steiger. Based on Chaim Potok's novel. A friendship slowly develops between a worldly, assimilated Jew and the son of a Hassidic rabbi. (2 hrs.)	(20) ★ ★ ★ "Country" (1984, Drama) Jessica Lange, Sam Shepard. Threatened with fore-closure of her farm, an Iowa woman struggles to hold on to her land and keep her family together. 'PG' (1 hr., 49 min.)	11:30 (28) ★ "Fanny Hill" (1984, Drama) Lisa Raines, Oliver Reed. A woman of pleasure hopes to gain fortune in 18th-century London. 'R' (1 hr., 30 min.)
(16) (59) ★ ★ ★ "Flight of the Phoenix" (1966, Adventure) James Stewart, Peter Finch. When contact with rescuers becomes impossible, crash survivors begin repairing an old airplane forced down in the desert. (3 hrs., 35 min.)	(28) ★ ★ ★ 1/2 "Body Heat" (1981, Suspense) William Kurt, Kathleen Turner. A lawyer is persuaded by his lover to murder her husband. (1 hr., 53 min.)	12:00 (4) ★ ★ 1/2 "The Barbarian and the Geisha" (1958, Drama) John Wayne, Sam Jaffe. The first American Ambassador to Japan receives cold rebuffs from the emperor. (2 hrs.)

Unit 2

Read the question(s) before skimming or scanning the passage and mark your answers by drawing with a pencil a short bar across the corresponding letter in the brackets.

1. The story probably took place ____.
- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| [A] during the war | [B] after a flood |
| [C] after a big fire | [D] after an explosion |

It was winter and bitterly cold outside. For weeks Rebecca had not left the partially-collapsed cellar that was their hiding place; but every few days, David would go out to search for food. In the bombing all the stores had been destroyed, and David sometimes found stale bread, cans of preserved food, or whatever else had been buried. Making his way through the ruins was dangerous. Sometimes bricks and mortar would fall down, and he could easily lose his way. But if he and Rebecca did not want to die from hunger, he had to take the risks.

That day was one of the coldest. Rebecca sat on the ground wrapped in all the garments she possessed; still she could not get warm. David had left many hours before, and Rebecca listened in the darkness for the sound of his return, knowing that if he did not come back, nothing remained to her but death.

2. The letter is written by ____.
- | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| [A] Petra's old friend | [B] Petra's neighbor |
| [C] Petra's penfriend | [D] Petra's English teacher |
3. Antonella Bruni ____.
- | |
|--|
| [A] lives in a small town in England |
| [B] lives in a country where English is the second language |
| [C] works in a town on the Adriatic Sea during her summer vacation |
| [D] lives in an English-speaking country |

Dear Petra,

Thank you for your letter and the photograph. You look very friendly. I'm going to take the photo to work and show it to my colleagues. In fact, some of them want penfriends too. You might be writing a lot of letters soon.

As you know from my last letter, I work as secretary for a company that makes sportswear. It is very good practice for me to write in English as sometimes I have to use English in my job. The office where I work is near the hills that surround my town. The view from my window at work is quite nice, especially in the summer.

There is a lot of sun here in the summer and it gets very hot, which is lovely. Is it very hot where you live? I go on holidays in August, usually to the sea. I stay with